

national focus and international focus on civic education.

Gone would be the national competition on knowledge and understanding of our Constitution and Bill of Rights; gone would be the free distribution of textbooks; and gone would be the regional teacher training institutes. Gone would be civic education assistance we provide to emerging democracies and gone would be the program where U.S. students learn firsthand about the difficulties of building and sustaining a democracy in the modern world.

As the ranking minority member of the subcommittee that will have the responsibility of reauthorizing these programs, I can assure my colleagues that I will work hard to see that these programs remain where and how they are. They are not large programs, but they are highly effective ones. They are worth the small amount we spend. They are a critically important investment in the future strength and welfare of democracy both here at home and in the emerging democracies abroad. They are worthy of our support.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Professor Marilyn Repsher, a mathematics teacher at the University of Jacksonville, who was awarded the Professor of the year award for 1999. Out of 400 competing professorial nominees representing institutions of higher learning across the nation, and on behalf of the city of Jacksonville, I am proud to commend Professor Repsher of her receipt of this award.

Professor Repsher had been teaching for over a decade when she was honored as one of the four national professors of the Year.

This award, the most prestigious national recognition in college teaching, is granted annually by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and the Council of Advancement and Support of Education.

Marilyn Repsher began her 30 year teaching career at Jacksonville University in 1969. The daughter of a high school math teacher, Professor Repsher was honored and indeed, elated, upon the award announcement.

Presently, even though Professor Repsher serves as the Head of the mathematics department, she still manages to devote 75% of her time to teaching, and interacting directly with students.

A few years ago Professor Repsher decided to change the way she taught math courses. Originating from a desire to teach students in a more down-to-earth fashion after listening to student complaints about their professors' teaching methods, and the lack of practicality of the material being taught, she realized that students were being forced to study theoretical concepts in math before studying math's every day life applications.

With her colleagues and this new way of teaching, Dr. Repsher completely revolutionized the way in which mathematics is taught at Jacksonville University. She now focuses on practical equations in her classes first, and then moves on to theory afterwards, but only after the students already have a grasp of the

practical ways in which this material can be applied in concrete situations.

As an example of her new teaching methods can be seen in her introductory Algebra course. In this course, she begins the semester by teaching basic algebraic concepts, while at the same time plotting the growth of a puppy on a computer screen. In more advanced math classes such as calculus, the students use the same technology to create visual displays on the data.

It is for this reason that Dr. Repsher is given credit for being a true innovator in utilizing technology in the classrooms of Jacksonville University, an idea that is quickly catching on in other university departments. In fact, she won two teaching awards at the university, both for projects involving the use of computer technology.

Some of Dr. Repsher's former and current students have described her lectures as "anything but long and arduous," while another said: "she keeps the class involved and is very focused."

I congratulate you, Dr. Repsher, on the receipt of this award, and am proud to have such outstanding role models like yourself in my district in the great state of Florida.

EBENEZER AME CHURCH, 117 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to a great institution in my hometown of Evanston, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Ebenezer AME Church is celebrating its 117 years of worship and service in our community. I want to congratulate Pastor and Mrs. James C. Wade, the congregation, and all those who have helped make Ebenezer a shining light in our community. I also send my best wishes to all those enjoying this year's celebration, "Catch the Vision," especially the young men and women from all across Chicago.

Under Pastor Wade's leadership, the church has reached out to the Evanston community and beyond. Their activities have had a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals. Their commitment to civic service knows no bounds. The church continues to lead by example, helping those in need, including senior citizens who need affordable housing, and positively influencing the lives of our youth.

Having worked closely with Pastor Wade, it is clear to me and to all in our community that the Pastor is an ambassador of good will. He reaches out to all those that he meets and forms lasting bonds that help to strengthen the spiritual bridge between human beings.

The success of Ebenezer and the AME community is a testament to all those who have contributed and continue to give their energy to this worthy cause.

I consider myself blessed to have attended many services at Ebenezer, and I am honored to call Pastor Wade and the Ebenezer community my friends. We have formed close ties over the years and our partnership will only flourish in the next millennium.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, due to the death last week of my mother I missed twenty votes. Had I been present I would have voted on each of these follows:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1999

Rollcall No. 533. Journal: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of Thursday, October 22 by yea and nay vote of 349 yeas to 41 nays with one voting "present." Yea.

Rollcall No. 534. Made in America Information Act: H.R. 754, amended, to establish a toll free number under the Federal Trade Commission to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made. (Passed by a yeas and nay vote of 390 yeas to 2 nays). Yea.

Rollcall No. 535. History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act: H.R. 2302, amended, to direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives (passed by a yeas and nay vote of 388 yeas to 7 nays). Yea.

Rollcall No. 536. Recognizing the Contributions of 4-H Clubs: H. Con. Res. 194, recognizing the contributions of 4-H Clubs and their members to voluntary community service (agreed to by a yeas and nay vote of 391 yeas with none voting "nay"). Yea.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1999

Rollcall No. 537. Urging a Moratorium on Tariffs and Taxation of Electronic Commerce: H. Con. Res. 190, amended, urging the United States to seek a global consensus supporting a moratorium on tariffs and on special, multiple, and discriminatory taxation of electronic commerce (agreed to by a yeas and nay vote of 423 yeas with 1 voting "nay"). Yea.

Rollcall No. 538. Sense of Congress Against Increasing Federal Taxes to Fund Additional Government Spending: H. Con. Res. 208, expressing the sense of Congress that there should be no increase in Federal taxes in order to fund additional Government spending (agreed to by a yeas and nay vote of 371 yeas to 48 nays with 3 voting "present"). Yea.

Rollcall No. 539. Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Geneva Convention: H. Con. Res. 102, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions in 1949 and recognizing the humanitarian safeguards these treaties provide in times of armed conflict (agreed to by a yeas and nay vote of 423 yeas with none voting "nay"). Yea.

Roll call No. 540. Commending Greece and Turkey for Their Response to the Recent Earthquakes: H. Con. Res. 188, commending Greece and Turkey for their mutual and swift response to the recent earthquakes in both countries by providing to each other humanitarian assistance and rescue relief (agreed to by a yeas and nay vote of 424 yeas with none voting "nay"). Yea.

Rollcall No. 541. Locating and Securing the Return of Zachary Baumel and Others: Agreed to the Senate amendments to H.R. 1175, to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, an American citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action (agreed to by a yeas and nay vote of 421 yeas with none voting "nay"). Yea.